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7/7/2015

Agency Information

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SSCIA

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Document Information

ORIGINATOR:

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FROM:

TO:

TITLE:

REFERENCES TO FBI REVIEW OF TAPES OF OSWALD'S OCT. 1, 1963 MEXICO CITY

CONVERSATION

DATE:

03/05/1976

PAGES:

27

SUBJECTS:

OSWALD, LEE, POST-RUSSIAN PERIOD, TRAVEL, TRIP TO

MEXICO CITY

FBI

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COMMENTS:

CCBOX 354

Date: 08/07/95

Page: 1

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION FORM

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Box 354

1 of 3

SECRET

SECRET

March 5, 1976

To: Senators Schweiker and Hart

From: Staff

Re: References to FBI Review of Tapes of Oswald's October 1, 1963

Mexico City Conversation

On February 19, 1976, the staff received a November 23, 1963, Bureau memorandum which Hoover forwarded to President Johnson under cover letter of even date explaining that the memorandum set forth "the results of the Bureau's inquiry into the assassination of President Kennedy and background information relative to Lee Harvey Oswald."* In relevant part the memorandum states:

The CIA advised that on October 1, 1963, an extremely sensitive source had reported that an individual identified himself as Lee Oswald, who contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City inquiring as to any messages. Special Agents of this Bureau, who have conversed with Oswald in Dallas, Texas, have observed photographs of the individual referred to above, and have listened to a recording of his voice. These special agents are of the opinion that the above-referred-to individual was not Lee Harvey Oswald.

You are aware of the significance of this language. You are also aware that the stated position of the CIA --as reflected in the testimony of David Phillips and contemporaneous CIA cables -- has always been that the actual tape recording of this conversation was erased sometime in October of 1963.

^{*} A copy of this memorandum is attached at Tab. On February 2, 1976, the Bureau delivered us a copy of a 11/25/63 Legat Cablegram which is attached at Tab, along with the more complete version that was furnished to us on February 24. You will note that the references to the Oswald tapes and their erasure on page two of the cablegram were deleted from the copy we first received.

By letter dated February 19, 1976, we asked the Bureau to deliver "all materials pertaining to the receipt, analysis, review and present whereabouts of the voice recording" referred to on page five of Mr. Hoover's report to the President. Bureau's response, dated February 24, 1976, stated, "The recording in question was never in the possession of the FBI and was not listened to by FBI agents."* Prior to receipt of this response the staff met with the agents responsible for its preparation. The agents then showed us an unexcised copy of the attached November 23, 1963, teletype from SAC Dallas (Tab) which advised that "the actual tape from which this transcript was made has been erased," and the November 25, 1963, cablegram from Legat to Headquarters which in relevant part reads "Tapes obtained by [deletion] here erased after two weeks following making of typewritten transcripts of contents of these tapes. There appears to be some confusion in that no tapes were taken to Dallas but only typewritten transcripts supplied by CIA, the tapes not being available because they had been erased." (Memorandum attached at Tab.)

The staff submits that the matter is not as simple as the Bureau asserts. Attached at Tab is a Belmont to Sullivan, November 23, 1963, memorandum in which Belmont recounts his 11:50 a.m. telephone conversation with SAC Gordon Shanklin. In the second paragraph, Belmont states:

^{*} A copy of said response is attached hereto at Tab.

Inasmuch as the Dallas agents who listened to the tape of the conversation allegedly of Oswald from the [deletion] and examined the photographs of the visitor [deletion] and were of the opinion that neither the tape nor the photograph pertained to Oswald.

On November 25, 1963--some two days after Dallas cabled the Bureau that the tapes had been erased--Bureau supervisor Burt Turner cabled legat stating:

If tapes covering any contacts subject with Soviet or Cuban embassies available forward to Bureau for laboratory examination and analysis together with transcript. Include tapes previously reviewed Dallas if they were returned to you.

As noted previously, Legat replied later that day to the effect that the tapes had been erased.

It is unclear as to how Shanklin learned on November 23, 1963, that the Oswald tape had been erased. CIA documents reflect that it was not until after 5 p.m. on November 23, 1963, that Agency headquarters cabled its station in Mexico City inquiring as to whether the original tapes were available. David Phillips recalls that this inquiry precipitated CIA station's search for the tapes which confirmed the fact that they had been erased. Agency headquarters was so informed on November 24, 1963.

Neither Gordon Shanklin nor Elbert Rudd [the Special Agent then assigned to Legat, Mexico, who personally delivered the alleged Oswald photograph to Dallas on November 22, 1963] recall ever having been aware of a tape recording (alleged or otherwise) of Oswald's voice.* Shanklin cannot explain the statements set forth in Belmont's memorandum.

^{*} Telephonic staff interviews of Shanklin and Rudd, on March 4, 1976. Unfortunately, Mr. Belmont cannot be contacted as he has been seriously ill for quite some time.

CODE

CABLEGRAM

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TO LEGAT MEXICO'S document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemi-FROM DIRECTOR of invitate and the content may not be disclosed to unauthorized person-LUE HARVEY USWALD, IS - R.

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SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO ANY INTERVIEWS OR FURTHER INVESTICATION IN MEXICO TO ESTABLISH OR REFUTE SOVIETADIRECTION.

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his document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your Committee. Its use is limited to official proceedings by our Committee and the content may not be disclosed to unauthorized personel without the express approval of the FBI.

FEB 27 1976

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If the intelligence contained in the changemessage is to be disseminated catable the Rossen, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphened in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

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ACCORDING TO CIA, SILVIA BURAN IS A COMMUNIST AND DURING TIME CARLOS LECHIGA, PRESENT CUBAN ANDASSADOR TO UN, SERVED HERE AS CIDAR ANDASSADOR DURAN WAS NOT ONLY HIS SECRETARY BUT ALSO HIS MISTRESO.

GIST OF STORY OF DURAN CONCERNING SUBJECT'S VISIT TO MEXICO 2013-LISHED TODAY IN MEXICO CITY NEWSPAPER "EXCELSIOR" AND BELIEVED TO MAYE BEEN LEAKED BY SOME HIGH MEXICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, POSSIBLY IN EFFORT TO SHOW SOLE PURPOSE OF SUBJECT'S TRIP TO MEXICO WAS TO

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FEB 27 1976

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DELETIONS IN VOLUE SENSITIVE TECHNIQUE IN FOREIGN COGNTER-INTELLIGENCE FIEL).

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AMBASSADOR MERE FEELS SOVIETS MUCH TOO SOPHISTICATED TO PARTICLA PATE IN DIRECTION OF ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT BY SUBJECT BUT THINKS CUBANS STUPIO ENOUGH TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SUCH DIRECTION EVEN TO EXTENT OF HIRING SUBJECT. IF THIS SHOULD BE THE CASE, IT WOULD APPEAR LIKELY THAT CONTRACT WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE WITH SUBJECT IN U.S. AND PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP TO MEXICO WAS TO SET UP GETAMAY ROUTE.

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FEB 27 1976

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If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated or side the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably perceptused in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

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LLAIRURAM - III CABNIGRAM - III RADIO - IXXTELETYPS

URGERT 11-23-63 7:23 PM CST EEA TO DIRECTOR
FROM SAC DALLAS 232220

ASSASSIMATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY. RE TELEPHONIC REQUEST OF MR. MALLEY.

SET FORTH HEREINAFTER IS TRANSCRIPT OF CONVERSATION RECEIVED BY LEGAT MEXICO FROM CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE, WHICH IS CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE ACTUAL TAPE FROM WHICH THIS TRANSCRIPT WAS MADE HAS BEEN ERASED.

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This do nent is prepared in response to your . west and is not for discont-nation outside your Committee. Its use is limited to official proceedings by ONITED STATES Gybur Committee and the content may not be disclosed to unauthorized personnel hithout the express approval of the FBI. Mr. Tolson DATE: November 23, 1963

: Mr. Belmont

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY NOVEMBER 22, 1963

DALLAS, TEXAS

At 11:50 a.m., I called SAC Shanklin at Dallas and suggested that in view of the importance of determining whether the subject, Oswald, took a trip into Mexico and was in touch with the Cuban and Soviet Embassies in Mexico City, we should attempt to check the entry points at the Mexican border to determine whether there is a record of his travel. I pointed out that

ALL baller, he said he was unable to remain over fifteen days in Mexico due to Mexican restrictions and would have to use his real name if he went back. Dallas will see that this check is made at the border.

TECHNIQUE Inasmuch as the Dallas Agents who listened to the tape IN FOREIGN of the conversation allegedly of Oswald from the COUNTERand examined the photographs of the INTELLIGENCE visitor to an intermediate and were of the opinion that neither FIELD. the tape nor the photograph pertained to Oswald, I requested Shanklin to immediately send a photograph of Oswald to our Legal Attache. This will be done by Agent Rudd who is returning to Mexico City by air. in Mexico should check the photographs of Oswald against visitors to see if they can identify him. Further, and should attempt to identify the photograph of to the new on October 1, 1963, inasmuch as he may have been a messenger or associate of Oswald. Particularly, they should try to see if he is an em ployee of the Cuban Embassy.

Relative to the Post Office box in Dallas to which the ritle was shipped from Chicago, I told Shanklin to be sure that the application for the box and any other correspondence dealing with the box was. secured from the Post Office Department and sent in here for handwriting examination to further tie it in to Oswald.

1 - Mr. Mohr

1 - Mr. Conrad

1 - Mr. Sullivan

AHB:LS

DELETIONS

INVOLVE

SENSITIVE

The President The White House Washington, D. C. 2950!

My dear Mr. President:

There are enclosed the results of our inquiry into the hassaccination of President John F. Kennedy and background information relative to Les Harve Noswald. - Jummuny

Additional information with respect to this matter will be furnished to you when available.

Respectfully submitted.

Enclosure

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DocId:32423556 Page 16

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY DALLAS, TEKAS, NOVEMBER 22, 1933

President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed by an unknown assailant at approximately 12:30 p.m., Movember 22, 1933, in Dallas, Texas. Investigation was immediately instituted in an effort to identify and apprehend the person responsible for this assassination.

At approximately 2:00 p.m., information was received that a suspicious person had entered the Texas Theater which is located about six tenths of a mile from the four bundred block of East 10th Street in Dallas where J. D. Tippitt, a Dallas Police Department patrolman had been shot and killed about 1:13 p.m.—Officers of the Dallas Police Department and FBI Agents converged on the theater and took into custody Lee Harvey Oswald who resisted arrest and attempted to fire a .38 caliber revolver which was taken from his person.

State complaints were filed on November 22, 1983, charging Oswald with the murder of President Kennedy and Patrolman Tippitt.

Investigation has established that Oswald was employed at the Texas School Book Depository which has been identified as the building from which the fatal shots were fired at the President. A fellow employee stated he took Oswald to work on the morning of November 22, 1963, at which time Oswald was carrying a package of sufficient length to contain a disassembled rifle and which Oswald said consisted of curtain rods. Oswald was observed on the fifth floor of the building in which he was employed at approximately 11:50 a.m., November 22, 1963. Cavald was again observed inside the building shortly after the shooting but could not be found thereafter. Another fellow employee stated shots were fired right over his family while this employee was working the car occupied by Fresident flemedy passing in front of the building. A witness to the shooting stated that the shots were fired by

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-Loach

The Journal is prepared in reigning to your request and is not for disseminary of the your Committee. It use is limited to official proceedings by DEGr Termi're and the cortent may not be disclosed to unauthorized personnel without the express in the office FEI.

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